MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
BRIEFING SESSION
15 October, 1975

AM
9:30 *CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Federal Advisory Committees Act - Status Report.

B. Nominations to the Board of Architectural Consultants for Old Georgetown.

C. Georgetown Waterfront Parking Facility.

D. Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Volume II - Status Report.

E. Mall Lighting Task Force - Status Report.

F. White House Swimming Pool - Solar Heating Proposal.

G. Temporary Traffic Management, Lincoln Memorial Circle - Status Report.

H. Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 15th Streets, N.W. - Status Report.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
15 October, 1975

AM
10:15 *CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 19 November, 1975
17 December, 1975

B. Minutes of September, 1975 meeting.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

10:30 *A. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development*

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 76-43, 3700 Reservoir Road, N.W., Five-Story Addition to Georgetown University Hospital.

2. OG 76-37, 1901 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Dart Drug Facade Remodeling - Confirmation of Action.

3. Appendix 1.

Shipstead-Luce Act

Appendix 2.

10:45 *B. D.C. Government, Department of General Services*

Perry-Simmons Elementary School Replacement, 1st Street between H & I Streets, N.W. - Resubmission of Preliminary Design.

11:00 *C. General Services Administration*

Pedestrian Bridge, Treasury Department Building.

11:15 *D. National Zoological Park*

1. Parking Garage - Resubmission.

2. Bear Exhibits - Resubmission.

15 October, 1977

11:30 E. Smithsonian Institution

National Air and Space Museum, Sculpture for North Entrance, Base Design.

11:45 F. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

New Logotype.

12:00 G. National Capital Planning Commission

Georgetown Waterfront Area Plan and Development Management Program - NCPC Staff Draft.

INSPECTION

Georgetown Waterfront.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
BRIEFING SESSION
15 October, 1975

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. in the offices of the Commission of Fine Arts at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:	*Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman* *Hon. Kevin Roche* *Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith* *Hon. George A. Weymouth*
Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary* *Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary* *Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.* *Mrs. Sue A. Kohler* *Mrs. Nancy N. Lusher* *Mr. David L. Miller*
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	*Mr. Edward Hromanick (departing liaison)* *Mr. Robert Gresham (new liaison)*

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Federal Advisory Committees Act, Report. The Secretary told of a letter received by the Commission indicating that the General Counsel of the Office of Management and Budget of the Executive Branch had ruled the Commission of Fine Arts was an advisory committee under the provisions of the Act. A preliminary meeting had been held with OMB establishing the parameters of the Commission's concerns. An additional meeting would be held with CFA staff and counsel as well as OMB counsel in the near future. The members unanimously approved this course of action and asked for a report at the next Commission meeting.

B. Nomination to the Board of Architectural Consultants for Old Georgetown. The Assistant Secretary told the members that the matter had been investigated by the existing two Board members, the staff, and the Chairman since the last Commission meeting, After considering a list of proposed candidates taken from all sources, it was determined that Mr. Thomas Wright, FAIA, of the architectural firm Brown and Wright, located in Georgetown, was the favored candidate. The Commission unanimously approved this choice. EXHIBIT A

BRIEFING SESSION
15 October, 1975

C. Georgetown Waterfront Parking Facility. The Secretary presented several drawings and maps showing the site of an abandoned District of Columbia Government owned incinerator between South, 31st, and K Streets, N.W., on the Georgetown Waterfront. Since the District Government had expressed its desire to provide additional public parking on the Georgetown Waterfront and since the Commission had periodically suggested organized or peripheral parking for the area the staff had proposed with the support of the Georgetown Board a parking structure on the incinerator site. The structure would be multi-leveled and dug into the side of the hillside site. The top of the structure would face South Street and provide a grade-level mini-park or overlook plaza with a veiw of the entire Potomac waterfront. Suitable landscaping and steeping down of the structure would minimize visibility of it while K Street would provide excellent automobile access. Pedestrian access would be from the overlook and from Wisconsin Avenue by means of Copperthwaite Lane. Existing houses and the historic Grace Church would have views over the structure. The Commission unanimously approved the concept.
EXHIBIT B

D. Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Volume II - Status Report. Mrs. Kohler reported that the manuscript and title page had been approved by the various members with suggestions. All suggestions had been evaluated with the Chairman and the staff, and the requisite changes made. Satisfaction had been reached on all points brought out and production of the book was under way. The members unanimously confirmed approval of the book's production.

E. Mall Lighting Task Force - Status Report. The Assistant Secretary reported that he and the Secretary held a meeting at the Commission offices to establish coordination and cooperation on lighting for the Mall. The meeting had been set up at a prior session with the Director of the National Capital Parks, and the Director of the D.C. Department of Transportation and the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts. The purpose was to coordinate lighting within the D.C. and Park Service jurisdictions as they were visible in adjacent areas.

The task force had met at the Commission offices and agreed to work together to achieve a unified system. The agreement that a mercury vapor color-corrected lamp used throughout the Mall and monumental areas of the city including Pennsylvania Avenue would provide the best system from the points of unity, economy, and maintenance. Olmsted fixtures would be utilized on the east-west axis of the Mall and reinforced by the National Park Service as possible on cross

streets in cooperation with the D.C. Government. Some Washington Globe lights would occur between Constitution and Independence Avenues until funds could be sought for using the Olmsted lights throughout the entire Mall area.

The Task Force has asked the Secretary to establish contact with the Architect of the Capitol on the matter. The Secretary and the Assistant Secretary met with Mr. White, the Architect of the Capitol, and reported to him the thinking of the Task Force. He had no objection to the schemes mentioned and indicated a possibility of using the same color- corrected mercury vapor lighting within those public streets adjacent to the Capitol, but that he hoped to keep the Capitol Hill incandescent for the present.

The Chairman, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary had also met with Mr. John Woodbridge of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation suggesting that the street lights on Pennsylvania Avenue be color-corrected mercury vapor rather than orange sodium vapor. This, it was agreed, would be a future goal.

The Commission approved this progress and instructed the staff to continue efforts at coordinating lighting projects and to check into the exact historical sequence of Mall lighting approvals and to get a map showing exact locations of proposed lighting fixtures.

F. White House Swimming Pool, Solar Heating Proposal. The Chairman, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary had met with a consultant from the White House pool installation team. The consultant had reported that there was a variety of equipment for supplemental pool heating which might be used. Possibilities included roof top, pool house top, and dog kennel locations. The Fine Arts representatives indicated that the ground level unit might be least obtrusive in the dog yard behind the pool house. A portable sun collector with a curved reflector seemed to be the most efficient, simplest, and most easily connected and disconnected of the schemes. This was suggested as the best alternative. Since this scheme was within the parameters of previous Commission approval, no action was required.

G. Temporary Traffic Management, Lincoln Memorial Circle - Status Report. Mr. Jennings reported that a letter had come from Mr. Jack Fish, Director of National Capital Parks, indicating that the Park Service would go ahead with an experimental program of pedestrianizing the east section of Lincoln Memorial Circle - also making other parts of the circle two-way at certain times. During the Commission's previous consideration of this proposal it had been

hoped that a very simple solution to circle traffic could be used, perhaps with several traffic lights in place of numerous bollards, islands, and signs. The Park Service had investigated the Commission's remarks and rejected them.

Though the members and Mr. Jennings felt that the proposal was an erosion of the monumentality of the circle, the traffic control experiment on a temporary basis was inevitable. The members suggested that efforts be made to simplify the directional material and signage as much as possible. *EXHIBIT C*

H. Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 15th Streets, N.W. - Status Report. The Assistant Secretary reported that the staff and the Chairman had followed up the Commission's directive from the September meeting to further investigate alternatives to the designs of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation and Pershing Memorial Commission which had been disapproved for this area. The Commission approved staff suggestions that study be given to developing a tighter urban space, called Washington Plaza, between 13th and 14th Streets, N.W. Most of this would be done by conserving existing setbacks, buildings, and features while infilling missing structures along the Avenue. This made the necessity of developing or changing Square 226, between 14th and 15th Streets, or changing Treasury Place unnecessary.

Meetings had been held with Mr. Hugh Miller of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Charles Conrad, Director of the National Capital Planning Commission, and Mr. John Fondersmith of the D.C. Office of Municipal Planning with great concurrence. At a meeting with Mr. Woodbridge on the subject of changing this plan, concurrence was reached on the importance of the aesthetic considerations. Mr. Woodbridge pointed out the difficulties of finding a solution that would alleviate the traffic problems at that point. Messers Atherton and Myer had started arrangements for a meeting with the new Director of the D.C. Department of Transportation to see if the traffic problems Mr. Woodbridge mentioned couldn't be resolved.

The Commission had general discussion about traffic and urban design in the area, finally unanimously endorsing the efforts of the Chairman and the staff. They directed the staff to meet with the Department of Transportation to determine what the parameters of traffic handling in this very important area would be. The Chairman suggested a report at the next meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
15 October, 1975

The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m. in the offices of the Commission of Fine Arts at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:	*Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman*
	Hon. Kevin Roche
	Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith
	Hon. George A. Weymouth
Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary*
	Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
	Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
	Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
	Mrs. Nancy N. Lusher
	Mr. David L. Miller
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	*Mr. Edward Hromanick (departing liaison)*
	Mr. Robert Gresham (new liaison)

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings were set at 19 November and 17 December, 1975.

B. Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. <u>D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development</u>

<u>Old Georgetown Act</u>

1. OG 76-43, 3700 Reservoir Road, N.W., Five-story Addition to Georgetown University Hospital. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings showing an addition of five floors to an existing three-floor hospital building. The building had been started under provisions of the Hospital Master Plan and had been built in the approved palette of brick and concrete trim. The architects had applied to change the facades slightly by projecting small bays out in the brick panels. The design would otherwise follow the existing master plan. The Old Georgetown Board had approved the project.

15 October, 1975

There were no project representatives present and the Commission unanimously approved the project.

2. OG 76-37, 1901 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Dart Drug Facade Remodeling, Confirmation of Board Approval. The Secretary presented two color renderings of this plain brick facade with a single off-center arch entrance. The roof and parts of the facade had collapsed and the changes were a facelifting of a mid-twentieth century building. The Commission considered the proposal an improvement and unanimously approved it.

3. Appendix 1, approved.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. Union First Bank, Sign Proposals. The Secretary explained that several local banks had merged and created a new name, "Union First". Of their twenty some branch banks several were in the Shipstead-Luce area. A proposed exterior sign with blue-faced internally illuminated plastic would be a departure for the monumental areas where bronze colors had been a tradition. The Commission recognized the need for the new bank to wish its special identity, but felt that it would be better to avoid anything as jarring in the monumental area as an internally illuminated blue plastic sign. The members unanimously agreed that the signs within Shipstead-Luce territory should be bronze or brown.

2. Appendix 2, approved.

B. D.C. Government, Department of General Services

Perry-Simmons Elementary School Replacement, 1st Street between H and I Streets, N.W., Resubmission of Preliminary Designs. The Secretary showed the Commission a series of colored drawings depicting a total redesign of the school since the Commission had disapproved a previous scheme calling it forbidding and overly massive. The new scheme was a three-floor brick building with a syncopated massing and stepping back of forms. An entrance court replaced a multifloored curved protrusion of the earlier scheme. The Commission briefly examined the drawings to familiarize themselves with the proposal.

The project was represented by Mr. Charles Pavlick of the D.C. Government and Mr. Tom Heggins, an architect in the office of Mr. J. Lindsey. Mr. Pavlick told of District efforts at a fresh

design, though the original program of the school was still the same. He stated that the scheme had the approval of the school board.

Mr. Heggins described the various features of the plan, telling of efforts to respond to the Commission's earlier criticisms. The Chairman indicated the Commission's approval of the basic preliminary scheme as proposed, thanking the District and the architect for their efforts. The various members felt that as a preliminary the design showed merit, but that they would need a model and additional information to give a final approval. Both Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Heggins felt this was a reasonable request and suggested that they could present additional material at the next Commission meeting.

EXHIBIT D

C. General Services Administration

Pedestrian Bridge, Treasury Building, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Mr. Jennings presented several drawings and slides showing the proposed change to the west facade of the building. At the present there was a museum entrance to the south of the west portico, under the steps. The proposal was for a matching facility to the north of the steps. Similar detailing, planting, and materials would be used. There was little objection to the proposal, and one advantage was covering some existing utility pipes and the service parking in an areaway. The bridge would cross and cover the areaway on the north. The Commission examined the materials and after a brief discussion unanimously approved the proposal, with the suggestion that efforts be recommended to improve the signage graphics, and attention be paid to eventual improvement of the appearance of the doors.

EXHIBIT E

D. National Zoological Park

1. Parking Garage, Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary told of the Commission's previous review of this combined parking-maintenance facility to be dug into the Rock Creek side of the Zoo. The Commission's continuing concern had been the impact of the structure on the Rock Creek Park. Through several reviews it had been determined that sufficient berming on the downhill side of the project and planting on the structure itself would help greatly to minimize the structure and screen in from the parkway below. The consultants had presented a model and drawings very clearly showing the proposal and the response to Commission of Fine Arts previous comments. The Commission examined the drawings during this brief review.

The project was represented by Mr. Norman C. Melun of the Zoo, Mr. Lester Collins, the landscape consultant, and the architects Messers Faulkner, Vanderpool, Egger, and Dolby of Faulkner, Fryer and Vanderpool. Mr. Melun introduced Mr. Faulkner who briefly explained efforts to accommodate the Commission's previous efforts. The consultants then took the members to the model to more closely examine the drawings. Mr. Roche expressed the hope that added concrete solidity could be added to the north end of the maintenance facility in place of windows shich could be seen from the park, particularly at night. Ivy was suggested for those areas of concrete wall which would abut the park as well. Mr. Collins stated that a large number of evergreen trees would be planted as part of the screening project and that the structure would have year round planting. The Commission expressed their unanimous approval of the project with Mr. Weymouth complimenting the architects on their efforts.

EXHIBIT F

2. Bear Exhibits, Resubmission. The Secretary showed the members several drawings reflecting design development of a previously approved scheme for bear exhibits. The series of concrete structures would be dug into a hill. It had been smoothed out a bit from the previous submission, but generally had only one main change, that was an underwater polar bear viewing area which had been suggested by the Commission. The Commission unanimously approved the designs.

EXHIBIT G

E. Smithsonian Institution

National Air and Space Museum, Sculpture for North Entrance, Base Design. The Secretary presented a polished granite material sample and a sketch showing a simple low base about 70 feet north of the north facade of the building. The Commission examined the material and unanimously approved it.

EXHIBIT H

F. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

New Logotype. The Secretary presented a design for a new logotype for this agency. The proposal was a red script logo of simple contemporary style. The Commission unanimously approved it.

EXHIBIT I

G. National Capital Planning Commission

Georgetown Waterfront Area Plan and Development Management Program, NCPC Staff Draft. Mr. Vanderpool of the Georgetown Board

and Mr. Rody of the National Capital Planning Commission were present for this project.

The Assistant Secretary presented several drawings and copies of the draft to the members reminding them that they had been briefly exposed to the subject at the previous meeting and had been sent drafts of the report. He further reiterated that the Commission had periodically reviewed and participated in the Georgetown waterfront studies for the last few years as the NCPC had conducted a contract with a consultant team in conjunction with a citizen-agency liaison steering committee.

The Commission was being asked to make comments on the report for inclusion in a final report. Many of the previous comments made by the Commission had been incorporated by the project and such items as a waterfront park and preservation of certain special areas had been included at the Commission of Fine Arts' suggestion. Further the Assistant Secretary suggested that most of the report could be endorsed by the Commission since it had been done in harmony with the Commission's long range suggestions, interests, and duties under the Old Georgetown Act.

Of particular note was the addition of several roads within the waterfront areas which would facilitate movement within development areas. The Commission's suggestions that adequate public transportation be included in any plans for the waterfront with or without a tunnel scheme had been omitted other than a vague reference to bus service. The Commission had also previously expressed hope that no height limit would be over 60 feet. The NCPC endorsed the 60-foot scheme. The Commission had also suggested peripheral parking; this had not yet been included in the draft. The Chairman suggested that the Commission's incinerator scheme could provide a solution to this concept.

Mr. Rody was welcomed to the floor where he briefly described the ideas of providing a framework for development of the waterfront to protect the historic integrity of the area within a series of design subdivisions. He told of efforts to have development unit controls, management controls, and a development corporation of private interests. Mr. Rody was questioned by Mr. Roche who suspected that both management and development control organizations would not be suitable at the same time. Mr. Rody felt that flexibility was his primary interest.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Rody for his presentation after a

15 October, 1975

period of general discussion. The Commission felt that they would unanimously endorse the concepts of the report with the comments above as suggestions for inclusion in the final draft.

EXHIBIT J

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:30 and departed. The remaining members toured the Georgetown waterfront with Mr. Vanderpool, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Jun 23, 2017